

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a thermal interface comprising a plurality of thermally conductive malleable fibers arranged in a pattern, the fibers of the pattern in contact with each other when compressed between a first surface and a second surface, forming a substantially continuous path among the fibers, to transfer heat between the first and second surfaces.

3. (Previously Presented) The thermal interface material of Claim 1, wherein the fibers include one of the following: a metal, a metal compound, and a metal alloy.

4. (Original) The thermal interface material of Claim 1, wherein the fibers are a non-metal.

5. (Original) The thermal interface material of Claim 4, wherein the non-metal includes carbon or graphite.

6. (Previously Presented) The thermal interface material of Claim 1, further comprising:

an adhesive applied to the fibers, the adhesive affixing the fibers in position on the first surface until the fibers are compressed against the first surface.

7. (Original) The thermal interface material of Claim 1, wherein the pattern includes a random pattern.

8. (Original) The thermal interface material of Claim 1, wherein the pattern includes a stacked pattern.

9. (Original) The thermal interface material of Claim 1, wherein the pattern includes a woven pattern.

10. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

positioning a plurality of thermally conductive malleable fibers, the fibers being in a pattern, between a first surface and a second surface; and compressing the plurality of malleable fibers between the first and second surfaces, the compression deconforming the fibers into contact with each other and into contact with the first surface and second surface, forming a substantially continuous path among the fibers, to transfer heat between the first and second surfaces.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 10, wherein the first surface is a thermal plate and wherein the second surface is a heat source.
12. (Original) The method of Claim 10, wherein the pattern includes a random pattern.
13. (Original) The method of Claim 10, wherein the pattern includes a stacked pattern.
14. (Original) The method of Claim 10, wherein the pattern includes a woven pattern.
15. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 10, further comprising:
encompassing the fibers in a thermal medium, the thermal medium deforming to fill irregularities when compressed against a first surface.
16. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 10, wherein the fibers include one of the following: a metal, a metal compound, and a metal alloy.
17. The method of Claim 10, wherein the fibers are a non-metal.

18. (Original) The method of Claim 17, wherein the non-metal includes carbon or graphite.

19. (Original) The method of Claim 10, further comprising:
applying an adhesive to the fibers to affix the fibers in position on the first surface until the fibers are compressed against the first surface.

20. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:
a plurality of thermally conductive malleable fibers defining a pattern positioned against a first surface; and
means for to transfer heat between the first surface and a second surface, the means including compressing the malleable fibers into contact with each other and with said first surface and said second surface, to form a substantially continuous path among the fibers.

21. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 20, wherein the first surface is a thermal plate and wherein the second surface is a heat source.

22. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 20, wherein the fibers are encompassed in a thermal medium, the thermal medium deforming to fill irregularities when the fibers are compressed against the first surface.

23. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 20, wherein the fibers include one of the following: a metal, a metal compound, and a metal alloy.

24. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 20, wherein the fibers are a non-metal.

25. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 20, wherein the non-metal includes carbon or graphite.

26. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 20, wherein the pattern includes a random pattern.

27. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 20, wherein the pattern includes a stacked pattern.

28. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 20, wherein the pattern includes a woven pattern.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The foregoing amendment and the following arguments are provided to impart precision to the claims, by more particularly pointing out the invention, rather than to avoid prior art.

35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, Rejections

Examiner rejected claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 20 has been amended. No new matter has been added.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejections

Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 1,699,302 (hereinafter "Mayer").

Examiner also rejected claims 1 and 3-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,384,185 (hereinafter "Bovenschen").

The examiner has further rejected claims 10-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,542,371 (hereinafter "Webb").

To anticipate a claims, the reference must teach every element of the claim. A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." (Manual of Patent Examining Procedures (MPEP) ¶ 2131.)

Applicant's independent claims include limitations not disclosed nor suggested by Mayer, Bovenschen, nor Webb. Therefore, applicant's independent claims are not anticipated by Mayer, Bovenschen, or Webb.

In particular, applicant's independent claims include the limitation, or limitation similar thereto, of a thermal interface including a plurality of malleable fibers between the first and second surfaces, the compression fibers conforming the fibers into contact with each other and into contact, forming a substantially continuous path among the fibers, to transfer heat between a first and second surfaces.

Neither Mayer, Bovenschen, nor Webb discloses nor suggest a thermal interface including a plurality of malleable fibers between the first and second surfaces, the compression fibers conforming the fibers into contact with each other and into contact, forming a substantially continuous path among the fibers, to transfer heat between a first and second surfaces, as claimed by applicant.

Therefore, considering applicant's independent claims include limitations that are not disclosed nor suggested by Mayer, Bovenschen, nor Webb applicant's independent claims are not anticipated by Mayer, Bovenschen, nor Webb.

Furthermore, the remaining claims that were also rejected as being anticipated by Mayer, Bovenschen, or Webb, depend from one of the independent claims discussed above and therefore also include the distinguishing claim limitations. As a result, the remaining claims are also not anticipated by Mayer, Bovenschen, nor Webb.

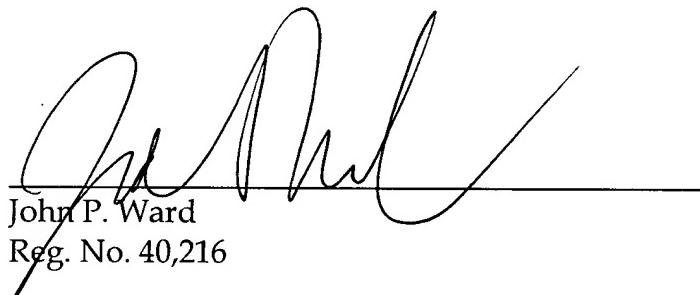
CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call John Ward at (408) 720-8300, x237.

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN



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